



Mental Health Transformation Grant

Peers Employed in Evidence-based Practice for Recovery (PEER) Kalamazoo County Community Mental Health Authority

Local Service Area: Kalamazoo, Allegan, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties, MI

Primary Service Focus: Jobs and Economy

Project Director: Julie Helmer

Project Team Members: Becca Sanders, Matt Linihan, Dennis Grimski

CMHS Project Officer: Risa Fox

Evidence-Based Practice(s): Supported Housing; Supported Employment; Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment; Assertive Community Treatment; Supported Education

Project Description: *Peers Employed in Evidence-based practice for Recovery (PEER)* combines the dual efforts of peer-driven mental health system transformation and the implementation of evidence-based practices for adults with serious mental illness. The project integrates and evaluates the impact of peer services embedded in evidence-based practices on outcomes and system change throughout the region. This initiative utilizes the recovery oriented workforce in Southwest Michigan to provide the infrastructure, workforce development, fidelity and outcome monitoring, and program evaluation to successfully employ peers in established Supported Housing, Supported Employment, Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment, Assertive Community Treatment, and Supported Education. These practices help establish partnerships with the individuals served to assure they achieve the life they want. *PEER* includes peer-run and traditional mental health service organizations that serve adults with serious mental health challenges. *PEER* hopes to add to the evidence of the efficacy of employing peers in existing Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) on individual and system outcomes.